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'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan

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'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan

'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is a beautiful native wildflower that has been domesticated for use in the Northeast. It can be direct seeded in a mixture with other erosion control plants for roadside plantings or similar disturbed areas associated with construction. It can be seeded in solid stands.

Golden Jubilee was collected along Interstate 91, south of Westminster, Vermont. Following extensive comparison with other native and commercial strains, it was released cooperatively by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and the Maine Department of Transportation in January 1985.

Description

Golden Jubilee black-eyed susan usually grows about 3 feet tall. The leaves are more or less oblong, and the plants are rough and hairy on all parts. The flower heads have yellow or orange rays and dark brown spherical centers. Blooming occurs from June to September.

This plant is usually a biennial. It establishes a seedling the first year, produces flowers and seed the second, and then dies. This life cycle may be influenced by climatic location. It may be a short-lived perennial in the southern part of its region of adaptation and an annual in the northern region.

Golden Jubilee is a reseeding plant. Once it becomes established and produces a seed crop, new seedlings develop the following year. Under normal circumstances the reseeding could continue indefinitely, unless there are drastic environmental or site changes. As competing vegetation increases, there will be a corresponding reduction in the number of black-eyed susan plants.

The number of flowers produced by Golden Jubilee is typical of other strains of black-eyed susan. Seedling vigor is good, and seed production capabilities are excellent.

Establishment and management

Golden Jubilee is best established when it is included in erosion control mixtures, using standard seeding techniques. These techniques include hydroseeding with wood-fibre mulch, broadcast plantings covered with mulch or cultipacked and then mulched, or drilling.

Because of the size of the black-eyed susan seed, it germinates well without much soil cover, provided there is good seed-soil contact. Moisture must be available throughout the germination period; so, broadcast plantings should be mulched.

The recommended amount of seed to include in the mixture is 1 pound per acre or one-half ounce per 1,000 square feet. Slightly higher rates should be used if the seed is planted in a solid seeding. Solid seedings are not recommended where severe erosion hazards exist. To insure continual bloom, seed 2 consecutive years. Planting should be done following the date of the average last killing frost.

The recommended fertilization is 300 lb of a 10-10-10 fertilizer per acre or 7 lb of a 10-10-10 fertilizer per 1,000 square feet. Fertilizer can be applied as a preplant treatment or sidedressed during the middle of the first growing season. Periodic fertilization may be required to maintain stand vigor and appearance.

Frequent mowing will delay or prevent flowering. Mowing after mid-June in northern climates or mid-July in southern climates may prevent flowering entirely.

Adaptation

This plant's adaptability ranges from well-drained to somewhat poorly drained soils. It is also adapted to most soil textures except heavy clays or very sandy soils. Its climatic adaptation is shown on the adaptation map. It is winter hardy in areas where low temperatures are between -30° and -20°F.

Availability

For more information on availability of seed, use, and seed production procedures of Golden Jubilee black-eyed susan, contact your local Soil Conservation Service office. It is listed in the telephone directory under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. Assistance is available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

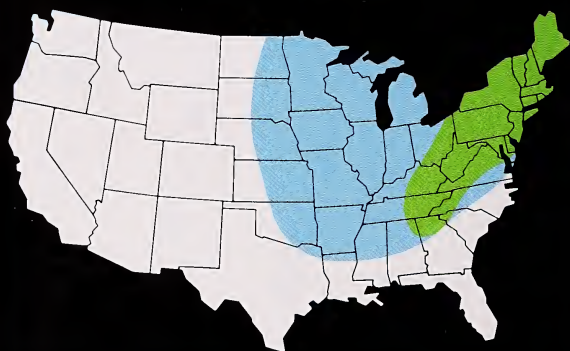
**'Golden Jubilee'
black-eyed susan**



Known adaptation



Probable adaptation



June 1985